

Editor's Note

International Protests against Raisi Memorial Service at the UN

Last week, in a powerful demonstration, supporters of the Iranian Resistance gathered outside the United Nations headquarters in New York City on May 30, 2024, to protest a memorial ceremony for Ebrahim Raisi, the former president of Iran's regime.

The rally aimed to condemn the disregard for Raisi's human rights violations and his role in the execution of thousands of political prisoners in Iran during the late 1980s. Protesters chanted slogans against the regime, demanding justice for the victims of Raisi's actions.

Chants against the regime's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, echoed through the streets as demonstrators held signs and banners denouncing the memorial for Raisi.

The U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has introduced Resolution 1256, condemning the United Nations for observing a moment of silence for Raisi.

NCRI-US Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh told Just the News, "It is a shame for anyone, under any circumstances, with whatever justification, diplomatic or not, to commemorate the death of a mass murderer. Think about it, if the outside world commemorated the death of Hitler. What the US, European nations, or the United Nations should have done is to use this opportunity to highlight Raisi's track record and, most importantly, to commemorate the memory of his victims."

[You can watch the full interview here:](#)

■ NCRI-US Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh on Just the News No Noise show with @jsolomonReports and @AmandaHead today discussed Raisi's death, the #1988Massacre, and Tehran's nuclear advances and deceptions. @A_Jafarzadeh also termed Raisi's death a strategic blow to Khamenei.



This week's featured article by a prominent international human rights lawyer writes: "A memorial service at the UN would glorify Raisi's ultra-hardline presidency while downplaying his extensive history of human rights abuses, including his involvement in the Islamic Republic's most significant crime against humanity. Instead, the UN should support the long-standing quest for justice, truth and memory of the victims of the 1988 Massacre. Additionally, it should advocate for the current political prisoners and dissidents in Iran, whose lives are at daily risk for exercising their rights to protest and freedom of expression. Death should not equate to impunity."

Human Rights



[A report on gross human rights violations under Ebrahim Raisi's government](#)

Iran HRM (May 29) - Iran Human Rights Monitor (Iran HRM) has presented its report on the human rights situation during Raisi's government based on the registered statistics at the Iran Human Rights Monitor (Iran HRM) center. The statistics presented in this report are based on extensive research. The details of the executed prisoners are kept confidential by the Iran HRM (Iran Human Rights Monitor) center. However, it should be emphasized that the actual number is significantly higher, as over 90% of executions in Iran are carried out covertly. [Read more...](#)

[Monthly report – May 2024: Human rights situation in Iran](#)

HRANA (June 3) - HRA's Statistics Department has released its monthly report for May 2024, revealing a concerning surge in human rights violations throughout Iran. This month witnessed the execution of 64 individuals, comprising 57 men and 3 women and includes 1 juvenile offender.. Shockingly, only 6 of these executions were reported by official sources, indicating a severe lack of transparency. Furthermore, 7 individuals were sentenced to death, reflecting a persistent trend of capital punishment in Iran. Freedom of expression continues to be suppressed, with 363 cases related to this issue reported this month. Arrests of journalists and individuals critical of the regime persist, with 4 journalists detained and prominent figures like Mehrshad Kalini arrested for protesting against death sentences. Additionally, the recent death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash led to arbitrary arrests and interrogations of citizens posting about the incident on social media. [Read more...](#)

[Intensifying pressure on female political prisoners in Karaj](#)

NCRI Women (June 3) - The situation at Fardis prison in Karaj has taken a concerning turn, particularly for female political prisoners. Authorities have recently transferred non-political inmates to the ward designated for female political prisoners. Unfortunately, this move has exacerbated existing problems, leaving these women in dire conditions. The

influx of non-political prisoners has strained the available space, leaving female political detainees with inadequate resting areas. The lack of proper facilities affects their physical and mental well-being. The prison's hygiene materials are insufficient, and lice infestations are rampant. Female prisoners struggle to maintain basic cleanliness due to overcrowding and limited resources. [Read more...](#)

Two inmates executed in Qom prison

HRANA (June 1) - On May 26, 2024, Qom Prison in Iran carried out the executions of two inmates convicted of murder and drug-related offenses, as reported by the Iran Human Rights Organization. The individuals executed were identified as 23-year-old Alireza Arezoomandi from a village in Farahan County, Markazi Province, and 35-year-old Samir (Hamid) Saeedirad from Arak, Markazi Province. Arezoomandi was convicted of murder three years prior, while Saeedirad was found guilty of drug offenses five years earlier.

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Protests, Economy

Who is Vahid Haghania, the invisible hand of Khamenei now in Iran's presidential spotlight

NCRI (June 2) - Vahid Haghania, known for his close ties to the Iranian regime's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has decided to enter the presidential race without any prior executive record. Haghania, a figure rarely seen in the media, held up his identification document in front of cameras at the Ministry of Interior's election headquarters on June 1, officially announcing his candidacy. He stated that his "decision to run was personal." Born in 1961 in Tehran, Brigadier General Vahid Haghania joined the Islamic Revolutionary Committees after the 1979 revolution and became part of the West Tehran Strike Groups, known for the bloody suppression of dissident groups. In 1984, he joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and soon commanded the IRGC's security patrols in Tehran, known as "Sarallah Patrols." An Iranian political activist states, "Vahid Haghania's acquaintance with Khamenei dates back to the years 1979 and 1980. During this period, Haghania was the driver for Abdollah Jasbi, a member of the Central Council of the Islamic Republican Party, and after some time, he became the driver for Ali Khamenei." [Read more...](#)

Iranian Resistance supporters rally at UN Headquarters to protest Raisi memorial

PMOI (May 30) - In a powerful display of opposition, supporters of the Iranian Resistance gathered in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York City on May 30, 2024, to protest a memorial ceremony for Ebrahim Raisi, the former president of Iran's regime. The rally was organized to condemn the neglect of Raisi's human rights violations and his involvement in the execution of thousands of political prisoners in Iran during the late 1980s. The protesters chanted slogans against the regime and called for justice for the victims of Raisi's regime. Chants against the regime's supreme leader Ali Khamenei echoed through the streets as demonstrators held signs and banners denouncing the memorial ceremony for Raisi. The protesters also held placards with pictures of thousands of political prisoners who were executed by Raisi. [Read more...](#)

Western Policy, Nuclear Weapons

US House resolution condemns UN moment of silence for Iran regime president Raisi

NCRI (May 30) - The U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has introduced Resolution 1256, condemning the United Nations for observing a moment of silence for Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian regime's former president. This resolution, submitted

on May 23, 2024, by seven members of Congress, criticizes the tribute as a blatant disregard of the U.N. Charter's principles. Raisi, who served as the regime's 8th president from 2021 to 2024, was widely denounced for his role in human rights abuses. His involvement in the 1988 mass executions, which claimed the lives of between 2,500 and 30,000 political prisoners, earned him the nickname "Butcher of Tehran." Raisi defended his actions, stating he was proud of being a "defender of human rights and of people's security." The resolution was introduced by Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV), along with Reps. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Brian Babin (R-TX), Tim Burchett (R-TN), and Claudia Tenney (R-NY). It highlights Raisi's presidency as marked by severe crackdowns on protests, particularly following the death of Mahsa Amini, in which the regime "killed more than 500 people and saw over 22,000 detained." Human rights lawyers attribute tens of thousands of incarcerations, torture, and executions during Raisi's government. [Read more...](#)

U.S., EU impose sanctions on Iranian entities, individual linked to drone sector

Radio Free Europe (June 3) - The United States and the EU have imposed sanctions on four Iranian entities and one individual connected to the development, manufacture, and proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which Tehran has provided to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine, the U.S. State Department said on June 3. "The Iranian regime provides to Russia and militant proxies and partners [UAVs] to prolong conflict and destabilize the region," the statement said. The action targets four entities associated with U.S.-designated Rayan Roshd Afzar Company; an Iranian executive of Iran Aviation Industries Organization; a subsidiary of the U.S.-designated Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, which oversees UAV manufacturers, including Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company; and Qods Aviation Industries. [Read more...](#)

GOP lawmakers turn up pressure on Biden over Iran nuclear program: 'Enough is enough'

Fox News (June 3) - Republican lawmakers Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Mike Lawler are pressing the Biden administration to censure Iran at the next International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting due to its heightened nuclear activities and guarantee that steps are taken to thwart Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons. On Monday afternoon, the pair will introduce a resolution that would also "refer the issue to the U.N. Security Council, and reaffirm that all measures will be taken to prevent the regime in Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons." "In the 18 months since the IAEA last held Iran accountable, the regime's destabilizing behavior has skyrocketed. Its terrorist proxies have attacked our troops, brought global commerce to a halt, and ignited the brutal conflict in Gaza," Scott said. "Last month, Iran stepped out from the shadows to attack Israel directly, and all the while, the regime has steadily increased its nuclear buildup." [Read more...](#)

Exclusive: Europeans' draft IAEA resolution presses Iran on particles, inspectors

Reuters (June 3) - A draft resolution European powers submitted to the U.N. nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors on Monday for a vote this week presses Iran again to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites and also covers issues such as its barring of inspectors. The text seen by Reuters follows a resolution passed 18 months ago ordering Tehran to urgently comply with a years-long International Atomic Energy Agency investigation into those traces. The new text calls on Iran to cooperate without delay, including by letting the IAEA take samples if the agency needs to. [Read more...](#)

Terrorism and Cyber Warfare

550 UK parliamentarians demand proscription of IRGC: 'Business as usual is over'

Breitbart (May 29) - A coalition of over 550 UK parliamentarians is urging the next government to officially label Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization as part of a broader effort to address the threat posed by the radical Islamic military body's

activities globally. Despite persistent resistance from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), the MPs and peers, part of the British Committee for Iran Freedom, are pushing to label Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist group in a cross-party initiative, marking a significant policy shift. Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy of Britain's Minority Labour Party — which is expected to achieve significant victories in the upcoming election, potentially unseating Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Tory government — has indicated that a Labour-led government might be open to such a policy change, according to the Independent. [Read more...](#)

Iranian Resistance



[The great gathering of Iranians: Berlin, June 29, 2024](#)

NCRI (May 31) - This demonstration echoes the desires of the Iranian people expressed in the uprisings of 2022-2023 to overthrow the ruling theocracy. In Iran, under religious fascism, it is not a time for elections but a time for revolution. The vote of the Iranian people is for the overthrow of the clerical regime and the establishment of a democratic republic based on the separation of religion and state. The presence of German lawmakers and political figures in support of the Iranian people's resistance. Date and Time: Saturday, June 29, 2024, at 14:30. [Read more...](#)

Featured Article

[Memorial for Iran's Raisi betrays the core principles of the United Nations](#)

By Irene Victoria Massimino
Townhall (op-ed)
May 29, 2024

Article 1 of the United Nations Charter states that a core purpose of the institution is to "achieve international co-operation... in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms." However, in a shameful and appalling gesture, the UN is planning an internal ceremony on Thursday, May 30, that contradicts the very core mission established in the aforementioned provision.

After observing a moment of silence and lowering its flag to half-mast “as a mark of respect for the passing of His Excellency Mr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the UN now plans to hold a full-fledged memorial service for a man known to countless Iranians as “the butcher of Tehran.”

Let us remember that in 1988, the then-Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa declaring that opposition to the theocratic system constituted “enmity against God,” punishable by death. At the time, Ebrahim Raisi, serving as Deputy Tehran Prosecutor, was appointed to the “death commission” tasked with enforcing this fatwa in Evin and Gohardasht Prisons. Along with three colleagues, he systematically interrogated political prisoners, particularly those affiliated with the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) and issued execution orders in as little as one minute.

Survivors of the ensuing massacre have testified that Raisi assumed the leading role in those proceedings, sometimes even overriding fellow judges to impose death sentences when they would have otherwise allowed the prisoner to go free after completion of his or her previously assigned prison term. In this sense, the late Iranian president may have been personally responsible for the largest number of executions ordered by the death commission overseeing the largest population of political prisoners.

All in all, the 1988 massacre is believed to have claimed around 30,000 lives in the span of three months. Many of those who participated in the killings continued to defend it long afterward and were handsomely rewarded by the regime. Raisi himself described the mass executions as “one of the proud achievements” of the government at the time and was ultimately rewarded with his ascension to the presidency, stage-managed by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was widely believed to have been grooming Raisi to succeed him as the country’s ultimate theocratic authority.

Khamenei first appointed Raisi as head of the judiciary in 2019, thus putting him in the position to claim a leading role in the crackdown on dissent that followed the spontaneous outbreak of nationwide protests in November of that year. At least 1,500 protesters were killed as part of that crackdown, and Raisi’s reputation for butchery was reinforced in the public consciousness. This only seemed to clear the way for his presidential campaign in 2021, which remained virtually uncontested after the Guardian Council responded to Khamenei’s endorsement by excluding all other viable candidates.

That endorsement lent support to the notion that Khamenei had become entirely fixated on the suppression of dissent, and that perception was reinforced yet again with the outbreak of the women-led protests in September 2022, following the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the “morality police.” More than 750 protesters were killed during that uprising, and 30,000 arrested. Nine of those arrestees are known to have been executed, but in the interest of further intimidating the public, Raisi oversaw a much broader surge in executions for prisoners in various categories.

The Islamic Republic reached an eight-year high of more than 860 executions in 2023, and it was clear that the surge was still ongoing up to the moment of his death, with 126 executions in the preceding month. It is highly likely that this trend will continue in the wake of his death, since the ultimate authority over Tehran’s policies and practices rests with the supreme leader. But Raisi was a very notable instrument of Khamenei’s will, especially where violence against their own people was concerned.

To cooperate in honoring such a man cannot be construed as anything other than collective disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No member state that respects the UN Charter should participate in a service that memorializes a murderous head of state at the expense of his victims. The democratic nations of the world must boycott the event and impress upon the UN leadership that if they go forward with it, they demonstrate contempt for their own core principles.

The death of Ebrahim Raisi carries with it undisclosed truths about the 1988 Massacre and the numerous executions that followed his tenure in the judiciary and as head of state. The sudden loss of such a pivotal figure in Iran’s autocratic regime eliminates the possibility of seeing him held accountable in a court of law. This event further diminishes the hope for justice among the survivors and the thousands of relatives of the victims from both 1988 and recent years. Going forward with the plan to offer him tribute in the

institution that is supposed to advocate for the unrestricted respect for human rights is a mockery to the victims and their relative, and for the objectives of any justice system.

A memorial service at the UN would glorify Raisi's ultra-hardline presidency while downplaying his extensive history of human rights abuses, including his involvement in the Islamic Republic's most significant crime against humanity. Instead, the UN should support the long-standing quest for justice, truth and memory of the victims of the 1988 Massacre. Additionally, it should advocate for the current political prisoners and dissidents in Iran, whose lives are at daily risk for exercising their rights to protest and freedom of expression. Death should not equate to impunity.

Irene Victoria Massimino is an international Human Rights and Criminal Lawyer and Professor; former Rapporteur of the High Criminal Court, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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Suggested Reading

[Iran: The Ayatollah's Hidden Hand](#)

In this informative and well-presented volume, Professor Ivan Sascha Sheehan pulls back the curtain on the regime's propaganda franchise. He reveals the excessive investment of funding, infrastructure, and workforce frantically trying to convince Iranians and the world not to believe their own eyes and ears. After years of trying to ignore the MEK, hoping others would do the same, regime officials now seemingly cannot stop talking about how effectively the MEK's message and organizing efforts are empowering the national uprising. Sheehan's research makes clear that the regime is scared, knowing that there is a blueprint and a competent political organization – run at every level by women – ready to help guide Iran to a legitimate constitutional future when the regime crumbles, just as happened with the Shah.

[Read more here.](#)



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About Iran Weekly Roundup:

This weekly is compiled by the US Representative Office of National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US). The NCRI is a broad coalition of democratic Iranian organizations, groups, and personalities founded in 1981 in Tehran. The NCRI is an inclusive and pluralistic parliament-in-exile that has more than 500 members representing a broad spectrum of political tendencies in Iran. The NCRI aims to establish a secular democratic republic in Iran, based on the separation of religion and state. Women comprise more than half of the Council's members. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the president-elect of the NCRI.

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